

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP
Jason J. Kim (SBN 190246)
Jason Yoon (SBN 306137)
101 S. Western Ave., Second Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Telephone: (213) 205-6560
cm@SoCalEAG.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff
JESUS GARCIA

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JESUS GARCIA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MONICA P ELENES D/B/A TACOS
CULICAN; ADOLFO GOMEZ; and
DOES 1 to 10,

Defendants.

Case No.:

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE
RELIEF AND DAMAGES FOR DENIAL
OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF A DISABLED
PERSON IN VIOLATIONS OF

1. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES
ACT, 42 U.S.C. §12131 et seq.;

2. CALIFORNIA'S UNRUH CIVIL
RIGHTS ACT;

3. CALIFORNIA'S DISABLED
PERSONS ACT;

4. CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY
CODE;

5. NEGLIGENCE

Plaintiff JESUS GARCIA ("Plaintiff") complains of Defendants MONICA P
ELENES D/B/A TACOS CULICAN; ADOLFO GOMEZ; and DOES 1 to 10
("Defendants") and alleges as follows:

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PARTIES

1
2 1. Plaintiff is a California resident with a physical disability. Plaintiff suffers
3 from paraplegia and is substantially limited in his ability to walk. Plaintiff requires the
4 use of a wheelchair at all times when traveling in public.

5 2. Defendants are, or were at the time of the incident, the real property owners,
6 business operators, lessors and/or lessees of the real property for a restaurant
7 (“Business”) located at or about 9160 Alondra Blvd., Bellflower, California.

8 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or
9 otherwise of Defendant DOES 1 through 10, and each of them, are unknown to Plaintiff,
10 who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave of
11 Court to amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities have been
12 ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and, based thereon, alleges that each such
13 fictitiously named Defendants are responsible in some manner, and therefore, liable to
14 Plaintiff for the acts herein alleged.

15 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant
16 times, each of the Defendants was the agent, employee, or alter-ego of each of the other
17 Defendants, and/or was acting in concert with each of the other Defendants, and in doing
18 the things alleged herein was acting with the knowledge and consent of the other
19 Defendants and within the course and scope of such agency or employment relationship.

20 5. Whenever and wherever reference is made in this Complaint to any act or
21 failure to act by a defendant or Defendants, such allegations and references shall also be
22 deemed to mean the acts and failures to act of each Defendant acting individually, jointly
23 and severally.

24 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

25 6. The Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 USC §§ 1331 and
26 1343 for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (42 USC §12101, *et*
27 *seq.*).
28

8. Plaintiff's claims are authorized by 28 USC §§ 2201 and 2202.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

11. The Business is a restaurant business establishment, open to the public, and a place of public accommodation that affects commerce through its operation. The Business provides parking spaces for customers.

13. To the extent of Plaintiff's personal knowledge, the barriers at the Business included, but were not limited to, the following:

b. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to post required signage such as “Van Accessible,” “Minimum Fine \$250” and “Unauthorized Parking.”

1 persons with disabilities as there were no “NO PARKING” markings
2 painted on the surface of the access aisle.

3 d. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for
4 the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants
5 failed to paint the ground as required.

6 e. Defendants failed to maintain the parking space designated for
7 persons with disabilities to comply with the federal and state
8 standards. Defendants failed to maintain the mark on the space with
9 the International Symbol of Accessibility, resulting in the paint
10 becoming severely deteriorated, hindering visibility.

11 f. Defendants failed to maintain the parking space designated for
12 persons with disabilities to comply with the federal and state
13 standards. Defendants failed to maintain the blue borderlines and blue
14 hatched lines painted on the ground as required, resulting in the
15 markings becoming severely deteriorated, hindering visibility.

16 14. These barriers and conditions denied Plaintiff full and equal access to the
17 Business and caused Plaintiff difficulty and frustration. Plaintiff wishes to return and
18 patronize the Business; however, Plaintiff is deterred from visiting the Business because
19 his knowledge of these violations prevents him from returning until the barriers are
20 removed.

21 15. Based on the violations, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that
22 there are additional barriers to accessibility at the Business after further site inspection.
23 Plaintiff seeks to have all barriers related to his disability remedied. *See Doran v. 7-*
24 *Eleven, Inc.* 524 F.3d 1034 (9th Cir. 2008).

25 16. In addition, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that Defendants
26 knew that particular barriers render the Business inaccessible, violate state and federal
27 law, and interfere with access for the physically disabled.

1 nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or
 2 accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden. 42
 3 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iii).

4 c. A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers
 5 that are structural in nature, in existing facilities, and transportation
 6 barriers in existing vehicles and rail passenger cars used by an
 7 establishment for transporting individuals (not including barriers that
 8 can only be removed through the retrofitting of vehicles or rail
 9 passenger cars by the installation of a hydraulic or other lift), where
 10 such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

11 d. A failure to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum
 12 extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily
 13 accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including
 14 individuals who use wheelchairs or to ensure that, to the maximum
 15 extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the
 16 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered
 17 area, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with
 18 disabilities where such alterations to the path or travel or the
 19 bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area
 20 are not disproportionate to the overall alterations in terms of cost and
 21 scope. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).

22 21. Where parking spaces are provided, accessible parking spaces shall be
 23 provided. 1991 ADA Standards § 4.1.2(5); 2010 ADA Standards § 208. One in every
 24 eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, shall be served by an access aisle 96 in
 25 (2440 mm) wide minimum and shall be designated “van accessible.” 1991 ADA
 26 Standards § 4.1.2(5)(b). For every six or fraction of six parking spaces, at least one shall
 27 be a van accessible parking space. 2010 ADA Standards § 208.2.4.
 28

1 22. Under the ADA, the method and color of marking are to be addressed by
2 State or local laws or regulations. See 36 C.F.R., Part 1191. Under the California
3 Building Code (“CBC”), the parking space identification signs shall include the
4 International Symbol of Accessibility. Parking identification signs shall be reflectorized
5 with a minimum area of 70 square inches. Additional language or an additional sign
6 below the International Symbol of Accessibility shall state “Minimum Fine \$250.” A
7 parking space identification sign shall be permanently posted immediately adjacent and
8 visible from each parking space, shall be located with its centerline a maximum of 12
9 inches from the centerline of the parking space and may be posted on a wall at the
10 interior end of the parking space. See CBC § 11B-502.6, et seq.

11 23. Moreover, an additional sign shall be posted either in a conspicuous place at
12 each entrance to an off-street parking facility or immediately adjacent to on-site
13 accessible parking and visible from each parking space. The additional sign shall not be
14 less than 17 inches wide by 22 inches high. The additional sign shall clearly state in
15 letters with a minimum height of 1 inch the following: “Unauthorized vehicles parked in
16 designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special license
17 plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed away at the owner’s expense...”
18 See CBC § 11B-502.8, et seq.

19 24. Here, Defendants failed to provide the parking space identification sign with
20 the International Symbol of Accessibility. In addition, Defendants failed to provide the
21 signs stating, “Minimum Fine \$250” and “Van Accessible.” Moreover, Defendants failed
22 to provide the additional sign with the specific language stating “Unauthorized vehicles
23 parked in designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special
24 license plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed away at the owner’s
25 expense...”

26 25. For the parking spaces, access aisles shall be marked with a blue painted
27 borderline around their perimeter. The area within the blue borderlines shall be marked
28 with hatched lines a maximum of 36 inches (914 mm) on center in a color contrasting

1 with that of the aisle surface, preferably blue or white. The words "NO PARKING" shall
2 be painted on the surface within each access aisle in white letters a minimum of 12 inches
3 (305 mm) in height and located to be visible from the adjacent vehicular way. CBC §
4 11B-502.3.3.

5 26. Here, Defendants failed to provide a proper access aisle as there were no
6 "NO PARKING" markings painted on the parking surface. Additionally, Defendants
7 failed to maintain the blue borderlines and blue hatched lines painted on the parking
8 surface, resulting in the markings becoming severely deteriorated, hindering visibility.

9 27. The surface of each accessible car and van space shall have surface
10 identification complying with either of the following options: The outline of a profile
11 view of a wheelchair with occupant in white on a blue background a minimum 36" wide
12 by 36" high (914 mm x 914 mm). The centerline of the profile view shall be a maximum
13 of 6 inches (152 mm) from the centerline of the parking space, its sides parallel to the
14 length of the parking space and its lower side or corner aligned with the end of the
15 parking space length or by outlining or painting the parking space in blue and outlining
16 on the ground in white or a suitable contrasting color a profile view of a wheel chair with
17 occupant. See CBC § 11B-502.6.4, et seq.

18 28. Here, Defendants failed to maintain the International Symbol of
19 Accessibility painted on the surface as required, resulting in the markings becoming
20 severely deteriorated, hindering visibility.

21 29. A public accommodation shall maintain in operable working condition those
22 features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable
23 by persons with disabilities by the Act or this part. 28 C.F.R. 35.211(a).

24 30. By failing to maintain the facility to be readily accessible and usable by
25 Plaintiff, Defendants are in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA and its related
26 regulations.

27 31. The Business has denied and continues to deny full and equal access to
28 Plaintiff and to other people with disabilities. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be

1 discriminated against due to the lack of accessible facilities, and therefore, seeks
 2 injunctive relief to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable
 3 by individuals with disabilities.

4 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **VIOLATION OF THE UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**

6 32. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
 7 paragraphs in this complaint.

8 33. California Civil Code § 51 states, “All persons within the jurisdiction of this
 9 state are free and equal, and no matter what their sex, race, color, religion, ancestry,
 10 national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual
 11 orientation, citizenship, primary language, or immigration status are entitled to the full
 12 and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business
 13 establishments of every kind whatsoever.”

14 34. California Civil Code § 52 states, “Whoever denies, aids or incites a denial,
 15 or make any discrimination or distinction contrary to Section 51, 51.5, or 51.6, is liable
 16 for each and every offense for the actual damages, and any amount that may be
 17 determined by a jury, or a court sitting without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the
 18 amount of actual damage but in no case less than four thousand dollars (\$4,000) and any
 19 attorney’s fees that may be determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by any
 20 person denied the rights provided in Section 51, 51.5, or 51.6.

21 35. California Civil Code § 51(f) specifies, “a violation of the right of any
 22 individual under federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336)
 23 shall also constitute a violation of this section.”

24 36. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein constitute a denial
 25 of full and equal accommodation, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services by
 26 physically disabled persons within the meaning of California Civil Code §§ 51 and 52.
 27 Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of California Civil Code §§
 28 51 and 52.

1 37. The violations of the Unruh Civil Rights Act caused Plaintiff to experience
2 difficulty, discomfort, or embarrassment. The Defendants are also liable for statutory
3 damages as specified in California Civil Code §55.56(a)-(c).

4 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA DISABLED PERSONS ACT**

6 38. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
7 paragraphs in this complaint.

8 39. California Civil Code § 54.1(a) states, “Individuals with disabilities shall be
9 entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to
10 accommodations, advantages, facilities, medical facilities, including hospitals, clinics,
11 and physicians’ offices, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles,
12 railroad trains, motorbuses, streetcars, boats, or any other public conveyances or modes
13 of transportation (whether private, public, franchised, licensed, contracted, or otherwise
14 provided), telephone facilities, adoption agencies, private schools, hotels, loading places,
15 places of public accommodations, amusement, or resort, and other places in which the
16 general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by
17 law, or state or federal regulation, and applicable alike to all persons.

18 40. California Civil Code § 54.3(a) states, “Any person or persons, firm or
19 corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of public facilities
20 as specified in Sections 54 and 54.1 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an
21 individual with a disability under Sections 54, 54.1 and 54.2 is liable for each offense for
22 the actual damages, and any amount as may be determined by a jury, or a court sitting
23 without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damages but in no
24 case less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and any attorney’s fees that may be
25 determined by the court in addition thereto, suffered by any person denied the rights
26 provided in Section 54, 54.1, and 54.2.

27 41. California Civil Code § 54(d) specifies, “a violation of the right of an
28 individual under Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) also

1 constitute a violation of this section, and nothing in this section shall be construed to limit
2 the access of any person in violation of that act.

3 42. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein constitute a denial
4 of full and equal accommodation, advantages, and facilities by physically disabled
5 persons within the meaning of California Civil Code § 54. Defendants have
6 discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of California Civil Code § 54.

7 43. The violations of the California Disabled Persons Act caused Plaintiff to
8 experience difficulty, discomfort, and embarrassment. The Defendants are also liable for
9 statutory damages as specified in California Civil Code §55.56(a)-(c).

10 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 19955, et seq.**

12 44. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior
13 paragraphs in this complaint.

14 45. Plaintiff and other similar physically disabled persons who require the use of
15 a wheelchair are unable to use public facilities on a “full and equal” basis unless each
16 such facility is in compliance with the provisions of California Health & Safety Code §
17 19955 et seq. Plaintiff is a member of the public whose rights are protected by the
18 provisions of California Health & Safety Code § 19955 et seq.

19 46. The purpose of California Health & Safety Code § 1995 et seq. is to ensure
20 that public accommodations or facilities constructed in this state with private funds
21 adhere to the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4450) of Division 5 of
22 Title 1 of the Government Code. The code relating to such public accommodations also
23 require that “when sanitary facilities are made available for the public, clients, or
24 employees in these stations, centers, or buildings, they shall be made available for
25 persons with disabilities.

26 47. Title II of the ADA holds as a “general rule” that no individual shall be
27 discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of goods
28 (or use), services, facilities, privileges, and accommodations offered by any person who

owns, operates, or leases a place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a). Further, each and every violation of the ADA also constitutes a separate and distinct violation of California Civil Code §§ 54(c) and 54.1(d), thus independently justifying an award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law, including but not limited to Civil Code § 54.3 and Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

NEGLIGENCE

48. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior paragraphs in this complaint.

49. Defendants have a general duty and a duty under the ADA, Unruh Civil Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act to provide safe and accessible facilities to the Plaintiff.

50. Defendants breached their duty of care by violating the provisions of ADA, Unruh Civil Rights Act and California Disabled Persons Act.

51. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for relief and judgment against Defendants as follows:

1. For preliminary and permanent injunction directing Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disability Act and the Unruh Civil Rights Act;

2. Award of all appropriate damages, including but not limited to statutory damages, general damages and treble damages in amounts, according to proof;

3. Award of all reasonable restitution for Defendants' unfair competition practices;

4. Reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs of suit in this action;

5. Prejudgment interest pursuant to California Civil Code § 3291; and

6. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: March 21, 2025

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP

By: /s/ Jason J. Kim
Jason J. Kim, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff